

II. REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-13, and 15-27 were pending in the present application. Claims 1, 13 and 15-27 are canceled in this amendment. Claims 2-5 and 14 were previously canceled. Applicant has amended in accordance with allowable subject matter. There are no issues remaining.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 6 and 8-10 are amended.

Claim 6 is amended to be placed into independent form by incorporating all of the limitations of canceled claim 1. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

In this amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 13 and 15-27 from further consideration in this application. Applicant is not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 1, 13 and 15-27 or in previously canceled claims 2-5 and 14 is not patentable. Claims 1, 13 and 15-27 were cancelled in this Amendment solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the remaining claims. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue additional claims, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-5 and 13-27, as presented prior to this amendment, in one or more continuing applications

Objections to the Claims

Claims 6-12 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. The Examiner indicated that claims 6-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 is so amended herein. Claims 7-12 all depend from claim 6. Claims 6-12 contain all of the limitations of “the base claims and any intervening claims” (i.e. the limitations

of canceled claim 1). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these objections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The examiner has rejected claims 13, 15, and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hughes (US# 5,982,893).

In light of the present cancellation of these claims, these rejections are now moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

The examiner has rejected claims 1 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hughes (US # 5,982,893) in view of Cimo et al. (US#2004/0030788).

In light of the present cancellation of these claims, these rejections are now moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that claims 6-12 are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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